

Strategies to Prevent (STOP) Spillover

Impact Brief

Sierra Leone

Ebola Biosafety Intervention

- Activity 2.2.2.2: Ebola Biosafety Intervention

INTRODUCTION

During Outcome Mapping (OM) conducted at the national and interface levels, stakeholders prioritized the wildlife–human interface in forest-edge communities in Sierra Leone for STOP Spillover work. An OH-DReaM working group (OH-DWG) was formed to work closely with wild meat value chain actors to design and test approaches, including improved biosafety practices and guidelines for hunters, traders, consumers and traditional healers. This activity includes training on safe handling practices, the dissemination of new guidelines, and testing improved, locally available and affordable biosafety materials and biosafety protocols.

This brief provides key achievements within this activity (2.2.2.2) in Sierra Leone.



Handling of wild meat at the market before the intervention

Expected Outcomes

At least two cost effective interventions to reduce EBV and spillover risks designed, developed, implemented and evaluated by local stakeholders.

Processors and traders at the wild meat market are protected and have reduced exposure to possible spillover pathogens.



Training on use of PPE and distribution of PPE

ACTIVITY AT A GLANCE

Activity 2.2.2.2

Ebola biosafety intervention: Increased use of biosafety materials and biosafety protocols. PPE is one part of an integrated approach to reduce Ebola spillover risks in the market, which will also include improved waste management, hygiene and sanitation, and enforcement of bylaws and food safety best practices. Results to date:

- OH-DWG developed protocols to improve the enforcement of PPE use
- 44 women were trained on the use of PPE and provided with PPE (i.e., gloves, face shields, boots, overalls and aprons)
- STOP Spillover team supported women traders with an interim market leadership team to support implementation and monitor the use of PPE
- STOP Spillover team provided a hand washing station at the market (water tank and wash station)



Women wearing PPE at Kenema Market

Reflections

Trader 1: “in the past I soiled my clothes with blood when processing meat and had to go around the whole day with the blood and foul smell, but now my clothes remain clean.”

Trader 2: “A man came to the market and met me dressed in my full PPE attire processing meat. He was very impressed and bought a lot of meat from me.”



Hand washing station at Kenema market

Challenges and Actions Taken

Challenge	Action
Initially some participants were not using all of the biosafety materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafted protocols and bylaws on use of biosafety measures by wild meat traders
Some beneficiaries did not use the PPE correctly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous engagement of the women at the market
No leadership structure at the market (inactive)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revitalized an interim market committee
No running water at the market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided a hand washing station • Partnering with Kenema City council, Metropolitan police, Traders Union and Sierra Leone Water Company to address water problem



Hand washing station at Kenema market